

**RELEASE AUTHORITY:** BOYLEJA, SENIOR REVIEWER  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**RELEASE DECISION:** RELEASE IN FULL  
**DATE:** April 4, 2006

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INFO  OCT-01  ADS-00  CIAE-00  DODE-00  PM-05  H-01  INR-10
      L-03  NSAE-00  NSC-05  PA-01  SP-02  SS-15  ICA-11
      ACDA-12  OMB-01  IO-14  HA-05  DOE-17  DOEE-00  /115 W
                        -----113011  121011Z /14
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P 120858Z MAR 80  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4849  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SEOUL 03074

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/12/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P  
TAGS: PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: PLAN FOR "LIAISON BODY" BETWEEN TWO NDP KIMS  
- REJECTED AS THEIR RIVALRY BECOMES MORE PUBLIC

REF: SEOUL 2876

1. ~~(C)~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AS EXPECTED, KIM YOUNG-SAM AND HIS VICE PRESIDENTS REJECTED THE PROPOSAL FOR A "LIAISON BODY" BETWEEN THE NDP PRESIDENT AND KIM DAE-JUNG THAT THE LATTER HAD PROPOSED AT THEIR MEETING MARCH 6 (REFTEL). THE VOTE WAS CLOSE, HOWEVER, WITH KIM YOUNG-SAM JOINED BY VICE PRESIDENTS LEE KI-TAEK AND LEE MIN-WOO. TWO VICE PRESIDENTS, PARK YOUNG-ROK AND KOH HEUNG-MOON, VOTED IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING THE BODY. THE REMAINING VICE PRESIDENT, CHOUGH YUN-HYONG, WAS NOT PRESENT, POSSIBLY BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO KIMS SO PUBLICLY. KIM YOUNG-SAM SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT IT WAS "IN-APPROPRIATE" TO ESTABLISH A BODY FOR A POLITICAL PARTY TO NEGOTIATE WITH A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL. KIM DAE-JUNG, WHEN TOLD OF THE MEETING'S DECISION, IMPLIED THAT KIM YOUNG-SAM HAD PERHAPS DELIBERATELY MISUNDERSTOOD HIS

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(KIM DAE-JUNG'S) INTENTION. THE LATTER CLAIMED THAT HE HAD ONLY HOPED FOR A PRIVATE MEANS OF DISCUSSING SUCH ISSUES AS PARTY UNITY WITH THE NDP LEADER AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

3. MEANWHILE, ONE OF KIM DAE-JUNG'S STAUCHEST SUPPORTERS IN THE ASSEMBLY, LEE YONG-HEE, DEMANDED THAT AT LEAST 100 OF DISSIDENTS BE APPOINTED TO THE NDP'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH PRESENTLY HAS 300 MEMBERS. THE NDP SHOULD ALSO GIVE FIVE SEATS IN ITS 25-MEMBER POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND ONE VICE PRESIDENCY TO THE DISSIDENTS, SAID LEE. TO AVOID THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE TWO NDP KIMS, WHICH IS DAILY BECOMING MORE VISIBLE, A GROUP OF ABOUT 40 NDP ASSEMBLYMEN LED BY OH SE-EUNG HAS SIGNED A DOCUMENT ASKING THAT THE TWO KIMS SETTLED THEIR PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ONE OF KIM DAE-JUNG'S CHIEF  
LIEUTENANTS TOLD US MARCH 11 THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY

OF A THIRD OPPOSITION PARTY BEING FORMED AT THE MOMENT, HE HAS CLEARLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT, AND THINGS ARE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION. KIM DAE-JUNG IS NOT ABOUT TO JOIN THE NDP UNLESS HE HAS MORE SUPPORTERS IN THE PARTY MACHINERY (HE ALREADY HAS MANY OF COURSE) AND AN INSTITUTIONAL ROLE. KIM YOUNG-SAM UNDOUBTEDLY FEARS THAT HIS CONTROL OF THE NDP IS AT SERIOUS RISK IF HE ALLOWS HIS RIVAL TO COME IN AT THE HEAD OF A LARGE AND DEDICATED GROUP. RIGHT NOW WE HAVE A STANDOFF. WITHOUT THE LIAISON BODY, THE MAJOR PART OF THE TWO KIMS "COMMUNICATING" WILL PROBABLY RESULT FROM POT SHOTS MADE BY THEIR RESPECTIVE SUPPORTERS, ALL DULY REPORTED IN THE MEDIA. GLEYSTEN

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